GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:341
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2004
DIFFERENCE IN CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION OF CASTES IN STATE AND CENTRAL LIST
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Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Backward Commissions and National Commission for Backward Classes have different criteria for inclusion of castes in OBC list;

(b) if so, details thereof and the conditions therefor; and

(c) the reasons for non-inclusion of castes of State List of OBCs in the Central List?

Answer

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MEIRA KUMAR)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in parts (a) to (c) of Starred Question No. 341 for Lok Sabha.

(a) to (c) As per Article 15(4) of the Constitution, social and educational backwardness are the criteria for determining the backward status of a particular caste/community. Both the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) and the State Commission for Backward Classes are expected to follow this criteria for identification of particular caste/community as a backward class. The NCBC follows exhaustive guidelines for identifying backward castes and communities. The main parameters include profile of caste, professions level of literacy, representation in services etc. The State Commissions follow their own procedure. In the first phase, the castes and communities, which were common to both the lists, were included in the Central List. As such some of the castes/communities which appeared in the State List and did not appear in the Mandal List did not find place in the Central List of OBCs in respect of 14 States/UTs, namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh which come out with their respective State lists after the Mandal judgment. Thereafter, as more States/UTs came up with their respective OBC list and the Govt. of India notified it on the same principle. Hence in a few cases, there are variations between the Central and the State Lists.